

DRAFT MINUTES
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE - Governor's Forest Health COUNCILS

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Advisory & Oversight Councils and to the general public that the **Forest Health Advisory & Oversight Councils** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Thursday, November 10, 2005 – 9:30 a.m.
County Supervisors Association
1905 W. Washington St., Suite 100 . Phoenix, AZ 85009

- 1) Call to order*
- 2) Review and vote on separate minutes from the Oversight and Advisory Council meetings on **10.13.05- Vote was postponed until the next Council meeting.**
- 3) Subcommittees
 - a. Reports
 - i. Mapping & Assessment - Barron Orr
 - Barron reported that they are in the process of uploading data to Fire Map. They have pursued two grants that will help fund the Fire Map effort.
 - ii. Policy Lori Faeth, Diane Vosick
 - Diane reported that a meeting was held to address the concerns raised by Allen Rieblin during the last meeting concerning implementation of last year's legislation. The Department of Commerce and Revenue are working to address several issues raised by Allen.
 - iii. Utilization & Commerce –
 - No Report
 - iv. Zoning & Implementation - Mayor Joe Donaldson
 - No Report
 - v. Education - Michael Neal
 - Mike reported that the committee is looking for ideas. He was asked to assemble a list of accomplishments to date. The BLM is hiring a Firewise coordinator.
 - vi. Strategic Vision Ethan Aumack
 - Ethan introduced Jean Palumbo and Tom Sisk. Both of them work for NAU/ForestERA. They will be providing the GIS and collaboration support for the Strategic Vision
 - A handout describing the effort was distributed.
 - vii. Landscape Context - Don Falk.
- 4) 2005 Fire Season-what burned, where and why?
 - a. Kirk Rowdabaugh and Glen Buettner, State Forestry
 - Kirk passed out a map showing what has burned in Arizona. Invasive exotics have proliferated due to wet conditions and have contributed to the fuel build-up that resulted in fire. He mentioned that for Arizona no weather seems to be good weather in that moisture leads to abundant growth in the desert of exotic plants and drought leads to fire. There was a suggestion that in the 2006 recommendations that the AZ Game and Fish be included.
 - The mandate of the Forest Health Oversight Council was discussed. The suggestion was made that we consider expanding our activities to include ecosystems outside of forest and woodlands. This is because unnatural fire is occurring throughout the state.
 - The details of what the letter should consist would be discussed in a future meeting.
- 5) The New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program and the prospects for expansion to Arizona
 - a. Walter Dunn, Program Manager, USFS
 - Walter provided an overview of the CFRP program in New Mexico and described the outcomes and details of the program. \$5 Million in Grants are awarded annually to a variety of stakeholders including the tribes. It has generated 400 jobs. He has a FACA committee with broad representation. Todd Schulke noted that no CFRP projects have been appealed. Tom Sisk stated that if the program expands to Arizona it should be focused in the Wildland Urban Interface. A strong component of the program is the multi-party monitoring that is required. Funding is provided through the fuel reduction part of the Forest Service budget.
 - To expand the program Congress will be required to pass legislation.

- 6) Ecological Restoration Institute Needs Assessment Discussion
 - a. Diane Vosick, Ecological Restoration Institute
 - Diane asked for any information needs that may exist among the organizations participating on the Council. This action is part of a needs assessment required by the Forest Service for the Ecological Restoration Institute to receive federal funds. No requests were made, although in an email Diane received input from the monitoring subcommittee.
- 7) Annual Governor's Forest Health Conference
 - a. Lori Faeth, Governor's Staff
 - There will be a third Forest Health Summit on March 21, 2006. Presenting the first phase of the Strategic Vision developed by the Strategic Vision subcommittee will be a primary focus of the Summit this year.
- 8) Local authorities to manage for fire
 - a. Paul Summerfelt, City of Flagstaff
 - Mr. Summerfelt gave an update on the FIREWISE program. Prescott has adopted a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code and requires that all new construction comply with the code which includes: access codes, vegetation codes and structure criteria.
 - The question was raised about whether or not the counties have clear authority to adopt the Intl WUI code. Yavapai has gone ahead and done it and Coconino County has not. Lori said that new legislation gave the counties the authority to adopt and enforce a minimum code. Deb Hill stated that the county attorney's seem to interpret the code differently.
 - A suggestion was made that the Council help Kirk Rowdabaugh draft a letter to the State Attorney General requesting an interpretation.
- 9) CCR Alterations for Homeowner Associations
 - a. Paul Inglish, President, Pinetop-Lakes Home Owners Association.

Mr. Inglish is the President of a large Homeowners Association. This association covers 200 acres. He said that the current CCNRs of the Homeowners Association prevent them from enforcing hazardous fuels reduction activities. These were written 30 years ago. These can only be changed by the HOA every 10 years and require a consensus. He asked that the County or State be granted authority that supercedes the CCNRs.

Lori mentioned that the state has been reluctant to grant this authority. Because CCNRs are a private agreement by the Association the County has no authority to enforce codes. One solution would be to establish a minimum state WUI code.
- 10) Forest Service Budget in FY06
 - a. Representative Tom O'Halleran- Tom had to leave
- 11) Future meeting dates and locations
 - a. December 8th- TBD- Topic 2006 Recommendations
 - b. January 12th- Field Trip to Starr Ranch and Tonto National Forest
- 12) Call to the Public
 - Christopher Creek subdivision representative raised the issue of educating the community on forest issues.
- 13) Adjournment: 11:50 a

Dated this November 10, 2005 - Governor's Forest Health Councils

CO-CHAIRS

Forest Health Advisory Council
Beth Zimmerman – Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Taylor McKinnon – Grand Canyon Trust

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

Forest Health Oversight Council
Rep. Tom O'Halleran – Arizona House of Representatives
Diane Vosick – Ecological Restoration Institute, NAU

*Co-Chairs reserve the right to amend the agenda without notice.